

The other lies over the western spurs of the Cheviots, the vast land of bleak and pathless moors over which Bertram was walking when he fell in with Dandie Dinmont. It was by this route that the small and handy Scotch force dashed down. They ravaged Cumberland and Westmoreland, and laid siege to Carlisle. When the news was brought to the English near Edinburgh, the question arose whether they should pursue. The Duke of Lancaster and most of the army wished to follow the Scotch, to cut off their retreat, and to overwhelm them by superior numbers. After this plan had been accepted in Council, Michael de la Pole had a private interview with his master, in which he exposed the dangers of the undertaking. The long dry days had gone by, and in the autumnal mists so great an army would perish for want of food and shelter in the bogs and wastes of Bewcastle. The Scotch had passed that way because they were few, and could move without more baggage than a sack of oatmeal at the saddlebow, but it would be necessary for Richard to return, as he came, by the east coast, obtaining provisions by road and sea. The King was convinced. The next day, as the army was about to break up and march for Carlisle, he jauntily told the Duke that he had changed his plan, and would return by Berwick. Hot words again passed between them. Eichard remarked that his uncle invariably lost the forces entrusted to his care, and that if this army crossed the moors, it would perish as John of G-aunt's army had perished when crossing France in '73. He even hinted that some design against his royal person underlay the dangerous advice to follow the enemy. The army returned to England by the beaten track, inglorious and discontented.<sup>1</sup>

The Scotch wars of this period have little influence on English history, far less than the French wars. The reason is simple. Between the fertile and civilised part of England and the march of Scotland, lay the hundred miles of barren and thinly peopled country constituting the Border shires. This country, Scotch invasion incessantly harried, keeping it barbarous, but never reaching Lincolnshire or Cheshire. The Scotch themselves were less fortunate. Their barren high-

\* See Ap.